result of new economic policy. Mr Speaker, Sir, I will take only one minute For instance, the cost of production of a single line is between Rs 8 or 10 thousand whenever we purchased them it cost us Rs 7-8 thousand or even ten thousand As such we invited open tenders on rupee payment basis and we got the same for Rs 8 thousand and something We saved Rs 20 crore for one country in this one attempt This Rs 20 crore can be utilized on roads and water This kind of work will at least be beneficial for the development of our department and it is hoped that the new policy of production of electronic exchange through fifty one per cent equity will increase our capacity to such an extent which will enable us to replace 70-80 per cent exchanges in the country by electronic exchanges

Mr Speaker, Sir, the second point raised by the hon Member is that the exchanges are not set up at the places for which they are sanctioned This is true I would like to give an instance of U P The allotment was made for particular place All the representatives took a stand that they will not let the truck go They will rather set the truck afore The exchange remained there for three day and it is still at that place They are asking as to why is it passing through their areas and why as was it not installed in their area before?

SHRI RAJVEER SINGH Can an ex change be got in this way? (*Interruptions*) Exchange can be got if the people's pressurse representative them?

SHRI RAJESH PILOT I am replying to that In such conditions, delay is made in certain cases but as per the Government policy we try to allot exchanges to every district and every place

Teesta Barrage project

*453 SHRI JITENDRA NATH DAS
SHRI BASUDEB ACHARIA.

Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state

(a) the stage at which the Teesta barrage project stands at present;

(b) the expenditure incurred on the project so far,

(c) the amount released by the Union Government till date, and

(d) the time by which it is likely to be completed?

THE MINISTER OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI VID YACHARAN SHUKLA) (a) While the work on three barrages, Teesta-Mahananda main link canal and Mahananda main canal have been completed, the work on Dauk-Nagar, Nagar-Tangon and teesta-Jaldaka main canals and distribution system is in different stages of construction Irrigation Potential of 25 thouand Hectares has been created by end of June, 1991

(b) An expenditure of Rs 359 55 crores has been incurred on the project upto September, 1991 against the revised estimated cost of Rs 695 crores

(c) A Special Central Assistance of Rs 5 crores dunng 1983 84 and advance plan assistance of Rs 15 crores during 1986-87 and Rs 10 crores during 1987-88 was provided to this project

(d) The project is expected to spill over to I X th plan

SHRI JITENDRA NATH DAS Sir, from the answer, it is clear that it is nothing but the reflection of the new economic policy of the Central Government As you know, the Teesta project is the only project, through which 22 lakh acres of land agricultural land - in five districts of North Bengal will be benefited This project will not only solve the problem of the crop raising but also changes the entire economy of the North Bengal and the State (*Interruptions*)

MR SPEAKER What is your question?

SHRI JITENDRA NATH DAS: I am going to ask my question. But I will have to explain the density of the necessity of this problem.

MR. SPEAKER: That is not allowed. Please come to the question.

SHRI JITENDRA NATH DAS: I am coming to the question. Rs. 365 crores have already been spent by the State Government, out of which the special Central Assistance has been to the tune of Rs.5 crores. If the Central Government's view is to improve the agricultural sector, I do not know, how it is possible without irrigation?

I would like to know from the hon. Minister what are the constraints of the Central Government to provide financial assistance during this plan period and the names of similar projects in different States which are being monitored by the Central Government.

SHRI VIDDHYACHARAN SHUKLA: sir, we provide considerable importance to this project and, therefore, we have given Special Central Assistance to this project. we would also like to clarify and propose to the Planning Commission to covert this project into a national project which should be funded entirely from the Central Assistance. But after consideration, the concept of national project has not so far been accepted by the Planning Commission. We are discussing this matter with them. But the work on this project is continuing; it has not been stopped. We are fully cooperating with the West Bengal Government. The West Bengal government is also doing its best to complete the project according to the schedule.

SHRI JITERNDRA NATH DAS: I would like to know whether the Government has got any letter from the hon. Chief Minister of West Bengal regarding the Teesta project. If so, what is the outlook of the Government on the points raised in this letter?

SHRI VIDYACHARAN SHUKLA: the West Bengal Chief Minister has asked for 50 per cent assistance from the Central government. Our outlook is that we are prepared to give 100 per cent assistance to this project.

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA: For the last two days I was in North bengal. I saw the potentiality of this project. This is a very vital project for the five districts of North Bengal. An all-party delegation of MLAs, under the leadership of the Irrigation Minister of the Government of West Bengal will be meeting the Irrigation Minister Shri Shukia and also the Deputy Chairman of the Planning Commission Shri Pranab Mukherjee for seeking Special assistance for the Teesta project, so that this can be completed in the 8th five Year Plan period. not that should not be spilled over to the 9th Plan also, but it should be completed within the 8th five Year Plan. May I know from the hon. Minister whether he will take up this matter with the Planning commission for sufficient and adequate financial assistance so that,..

MR. SPEAKER; "So that' is not necessary !

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA: This vital project can be completed within the 8th five Year Plan period.

SHRI VIDYACHARAN SHUKLA: As I said, this project is already under the discussions with the Planning Commission. The outcome of he discussions can be known only after the discussions are over. I have said earlier that we have given very good and very high priority to this project. This is a mega project, so it does not seem likely to be completed in the 8th Plan. Even if the sanctions are made in time and all the work goes on, even then looking to the magnitude of the work involved, it is likely to be finished during the 8th Plan. But we will try and see that the sufficient resources are provided for this project because this is a project of national importance.

[*Translation*]

SHRI PIUS TIRKEY: Mr. Speaker, sir, the hon. Minister has just now stated that it is a national project like Bhakhra Nagal dam

project. Now I would like to ask the hon. Minister as to why its completion has been delayed for such a long period and why the funds which were to be provided by the Central Government have not been provided? Secondly, the hon. Minister has stated that it is a national project and Central Government would provide hundred percent financial assistance for this project. So I would like to know the amount of money to be given by Central Government during the current year and the coming years and how long it will take to complete the project?

SHRI VIDYA CHARAN SHUKLA: Mr. Speaker, Sir, irrigation is a state subject. Therefore, the State Governments have to bear the whole expenditure on irrigation. The Central government generally do not provide any money for it. It is just for this particular project that about Rs. 5 crores have been sanctioned Rs. 15 crores have been sanctioned for advance plan. Keeping the importance of the project in view, the Government is prepared to meet the whole expenditure on this project. If this project satisfies the norms laid down for a national project and Planning Commission approves it as such, then work on this project will be carried out in a different way otherwise the Government of West Bengal will have to complete the project with its own resources. As I have already stated, the matter is still under consideration, and no decision has yet been taken.

[*English*]

SHRIMATI DIL KUMARI BHANDARI: I would like to know from the hon. Minister as to whether the Government have any proposal to construct a barrage as a part of the Teesta. Barrage Project, at or near Coronation Bridge in North Bengal. I am and for that matter, the people of Sikkim are not against tha Teesta Barrage Project. But, if this particular barrage is constructed at this particular point, then, our people are apprehensive that three towns which are situated on the bank of River Teesta will be submerged. Not only these three towns, but also the whole National Highway 31A, will be submerged. If it is so, I want to know the reaction of the hon. Minister to this.

SHRI VIDYACHARAN SHUKLA: I do not know which of the three barrages affects the area that the hon. Member indicated.

One barrage is proposed to be constructed at Gazoldaba in Jalpaiguri District; second barrage is proposed to be constructed at Phulbari in Jalpariguri District; and the third barrage is proposed to be constructed on Dauk River and this would be on Teestajaldaka main Canal. These are the three barrage under contemplation.

I do not know which of the barrages is going to affect the area that the hon. lady member has said. But, I will look into this matter and find out what are the implications of submersion in these three barrages.

Production of Copper

*454. SHRI BHAGEY GOBARDHAN: Will the Minister of MINES be pleased to state:

(a) the estimated reserves of copper available in the country and the locations thereof;

(b) the annual production of copper vis-a vis its demand in the country; and

(c) the details of public sector undertakings engaged in the production of copper including profitability of each undertaking?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF MINES (SHRI BALRAM SINGH YADAV): (a) to (c). A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT

(a) The estimated reserves of copper in the country as on 31.3.1988 are 632 million tonnes. These reserves are available mostly in Madhya Pradesh (38%), Bihar (35%), Rajasthan (19%) with smaller deposits in Karnataka, Andhra pradesh, Sikkim and a